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22 January 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR: Project Review Committee

SUBJECT: Project for Exploring the Development of a
World Congress for Freedom and Democracy

I. The Problem

To explore for a period of one year the possibility of creating
a World Congress for Freedom and Democracy.

II. Discussion

25X1A9a This project grows out of nearly a year of preliminary exploration, conducted by [REDACTED] Chief, Senior Research Staff on International Communism, DD/I, of a proposal made to Mr. Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., Special Assistant to the President, at the Fifth International Convegno of Il Mulino Research Group, Bologna, Italy, 22 April 1961. This proposal was that there should be organized "a large conference in the US in which the democratic movements and parties of the whole world should take part, where the very principles on which the policy of the Western world must draw its inspiration would be debated and which might determine the doctrine of the relationship of the countries of the West and the Third World."

25X1A5a1 Subsequent to this meeting, [REDACTED] 25X1A9a and Mr. Schlesinger agreed that this proposal deserved careful consideration. Working 25X1A9a with [REDACTED] [REDACTED] organized a small exploratory meeting in Paris, 11-15 December 1961, in which ten Europeans and two Americans canvassed the political, economic, and ideological principles on which such a Conference could be organized. The Paris meeting was hailed by all who took part in it as an impressive step in pioneering a new type of international organization of a mixed public and private nature, which by the example of positive thought and action could serve as an effective force to mobilize and galvanize the innumerable activities of individuals and organizations of the Free World in meeting the universal challenge of Communism. It was recognized that such an endeavor would have to lie outside the

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framework of the United Nations and above the general arena of the Cold War.

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The results of the Paris meeting will be incorporated in a report by [REDACTED] to Mr. Amory, which can also serve as terms of reference for subsequent meetings. This report, which like the other exploratory activities of the project, will be of an unclassified nature, will be discussed with a selected group of official and private individuals, here and abroad. Publicity will be avoided during the exploratory period.

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Specifically, it is proposed that [REDACTED] be established on detached service for one year [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] During this year he will attempt to organize four conferences, patterned after the Paris meeting, in Latin America, Africa, the Near East, and Asia. To this end, he will enlist as associates or consultants a select group of American and foreign experts who will cooperate on a voluntary or paid basis on organizing the conferences and preparing reports.

On the basis of the Paris meeting and of discussions with a number of persons who have been interested in the project, it is hoped that this year of exploration will lead to the conclusion that further steps in the direction proposed by Il Mulino will appear advisable. Although no continuation of this project is set forth at this time, it is believed that subsequent steps would include the establishment of a number of small international commissions dedicated to the discussion, study and promotion of democratic action in such fields as: (a) economic relations between the advanced economic regions and those which are emerging from backwardness; (b) problems of democratic constitution building and leadership; (c) the effects of modernization - with its attendant political and social "alienation" of the individual - in both highly developed and undeveloped nations and regions; (d) control of the "population explosion." During this subsequent phase, a first step might be taken toward creating a permanent organization for the World Congress.

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III. Funding

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The sum of [REDACTED] is requested for this project, falling into two categories: (1) establishment of [REDACTED] 25X1A1a with secretarial and research assistance [REDACTED] (2) [REDACTED] 25X1A1a provision for the holding of the proposed regional conferences [REDACTED]. The breakdown of these two categories is presented in the Attachment.

IV. Duration

The project would last one year from the date of approval.

V. Coordination

DDS for administrative aspects.

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DDP for access by [REDACTED] to area desks and field stations for the purpose of planning and carrying out the regional meetings. Most of the interested Divisions and Staffs of DDP have already been canvassed, and have indicated approval of the project and willingness to cooperate with [REDACTED].

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VI. Special Problems

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If the project is to continue beyond the first year, it would be desirable that elements of bona fide private support be introduced. Exploratory steps in this direction would be taken during the second half of the year. If, as seems desirable, mixed private and public support is the eventual formula for the World Congress, the latter should, if possible, be obtained from non-Agency sources.

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C. Security. No special problems are anticipated, insofar as [REDACTED] is concerned. The names of other persons associated with the project will be submitted to the Office of Security, and clearance requested for those who are witting of Agency involvement. In view of the unclassified nature of the project, clearances will not be required for unwitting persons.

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E. Requirements in the Agency. [REDACTED] will require continuance of his Agency clearance and his Building badge. He will require research facilities in the Library, and a desk in the DDI area where he can work on classified materials, as background to his overt research [REDACTED]. He will not require internal secretarial support.

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F. Future Plans for [REDACTED]. Depending on the outcome of this year's exploration, [REDACTED] will decide whether to resign from the Agency or to ask for reassignment within it.

VII. Results Expected

As noted above, it is anticipated that this year of exploration will determine the general advisability of continuing in the actual process of organizing the World Congress. Should the outcome be favorable, the benefits to the US Government and to the Free World in general

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would be great. The Agency would profit directly through the emergence of a powerful and dynamic institution of free, democratic action, under whose aegis its own multiform operations would receive added stature, scope, and worth.

VIII. Action Recommended.

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That the expenditure [REDACTED] be authorized for this project. The Office of the DD/I will make the funds available.

Robert Amory, Jr.
Deputy Director/Intelligence

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